



## Township of Teaneck

# Shade Tree Advisory Board (STAB) 2022 Annual Report



### Members of the 2022 Shade Tree Advisory Board

- Co-chairs: Nancy Cochrane, AnnaKurz
- Members: Zina Barrera, Wendy Kelly, Roby Langert, Michael Sermabekian - Department of Public Works liaison, Yosef Gillers - Environmental Commission liaison, Michael Pagan - Council Liaison
- Resigned: Sandy Wolkenberg, Ellen Schwartz, Susan Berger

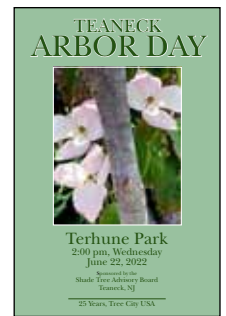
*Because STAB works so closely with Teaneck's DPW, STAB acknowledges that much of STAB's accomplishments consist of DPW accomplishments (Thank you DPW.)*

- ❖ **STAB's new EC liaison** (Environmental Commission) is Yosef Gillers, CE chairman.
- ❖ **STAB's new DPW liaison** is Superintendent Michael Sermabekian. DPW felled its annual average number (300-350) of trees due to "leaning, dead, rotted, sidewalk, sewer, etc." Manager Kazinci approached Michael S. to become a certified arborist.
- ❖ **STAB lost three members** in 2022: Susan Berger, Ellen Schwartz, Sandy Wolkenberg and seeks to replace them as soon as possible.
- ❖ **CEUs** Michael S. reported that Teaneck has an ample amount of CEUs.
- ❖ **CFMP** - Based on recommendations Zina heard while attending a NJ Forestry course, STAB suspended CFMP (Community Forest Management Plan) update. Originally due in 2020, the deadline was moved to 2025 and much of the content has changed. STAB will proceed with its update when the new version becomes available.
- ❖ **Arbor Day Ceremony** and planting on



*from left to right:  
Mike Pagan, Dean Kazinci, Kevin Arahill, Michael Sermabekian*

June 22, 2022 was well attended and celebrated by planting a dogwood tree in Terhune Park in honor of retiring DPW head Kevin Arahill. A plaque of recognition was awarded by Congressman Josh Gottheimer's office to STAB for its efforts. Plans are being made to replace Kevin's dogwood tree : it did not survive deer browsings and antler rubbings.



- ❖ **The \$10,000 resiliency grant** from NJ DEP will be used for a UTC (Urban Tree Canopy) study. STAB members each devoted two hours' study on various tree-related softwares and reported during ongoing meetings what they learned. An ISA certified arborist member of the Davey Tree Company visited the April meeting to explain advantages of a UTC study and recommended ("more bang for your buck") it over the initial goal, a tree inventory, which would cover a only small fraction of the township trees.
- ❖ **Tree plantings:**
  - Councilman Pagan reported that the Council designated \$75,000 for new trees and approximately \$150,000 for tree maintenance.



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• All the *Diversion Project* PSE+G money was used for planting trees guaranteed for two years (all dead trees were replaced within 2022)

• *Penn Avenue oaks*, many of which were deemed unsafe, were felled. After numerous meetings and discussions among STAB, DPW, residents and the township, a list of replacement trees (maples, yellow-woods, gingkos and Japanese lilacs) were considered. DPW made the final choices and most felled trees on Penn Avenue were replaced.

❖ **Trees of Love's** (TOL) : it is still unclear if ever/ when TOL will ever resume.

Over 100 native trees filled spaces in township parks.

❖ **Phelps Arboretum** in Phelps Park.

In July, to assess what the arboretum contained, Anna spray-painted Ilgenfritz' grid onto the grass.



Some of the TOL trees had died. So did some of the original trees shown on Ilgenfritz' map; the northern-



most end is overgrown and hides the original evergreens (now much larger) as well as a new colony of sassafras trees; the southernmost area near the parking lot has new, good-sized oak trees. What next?

## GOALS

**CFMP** - update Teaneck's when the new version comes out; due in 2025.

### Celebrate Arbor Day 2023

**Phelps Arboretum** - resuscitate it to make it a Teaneck asset,

**CEU's** - get all STAB members CORE trained who are not yet trained; and have members get more CEU's.

**Resiliency Grant** - do all required to get the resiliency grant for a UTC (Urban Tree Canopy) study.

**Follow up on discussion** - started in April/ May 2022: create legislation (like Tenafly's) to mandate replacement of (or a fine) trees taken down on private property.

**Continue** to advocate for the planting of trees within the township to replace ageing-out trees and to make relevant Teaneck's designation as a Tree City. ■

Phelps Arboretum  
Top spray-painted grid line on the ground to mimic Ilgenfritz' map  
Bottom  
large diseased oak cut down